

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208039
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208039

PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBMS: SOVIET NOTIFICATION OF EXERCISE

REF: MOSCOW 19442 (DTG 151325Z AUG 78)

1. ON AUGUST 15, THE SOVIET EMBASSY NOTIFIED THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF AN UNNAMED COMBINED AIR/LAND EXER-
CISE TO OCCUR SEPTEMBER 5 TO 12 IN THE CAUCASUS.
APPROXIMATELY 25,000 MEN WILL PARTICIPATE. OBSERVERS
WERE NOT INVITED. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE SOVIET
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NOTE IS IN PARA 2, FOLLOWED BY SPECIFIC ACTION REQUEST.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF NOTE (TREAT AS CONFIDENTIAL): QUOTE:

NOTE NO. 54. THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE USA AND HAS THE
HONOUR TO ANNOUNCE, THAT DURING THE PERIOD FROM 5 TO 12

SEPTEMBER 1978, IN THE DISTRICT OF KUTAI, BATUMI,
AND KIROVABAD, IT IS PLANNED TO CONDUCT EXERCISES OF THE
TROOPS OF THE ZAKAVKAZ MILITARY DISTRICT, WITH THE
PURPOSE OF WORKING OUT QUESTIONS OF COORDINATION BETWEEN
DIFFERENT ARMS OF THE SERVICE.

GROUND FORCES AS WELL AS UNITS AND SUB-UNITS OF THE
AIR FORCES WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISES.

THE PROPOSED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE TROOP
EXERCISE IS ABOUT 25,000 MEN.

AUGUST 15, 1978. WASHINGTON. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SEVENTH EXERCISE OF WHICH
SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN NOTIFICATION UNDER CSCE. PREVIOUS
EXERCISES ARE "CAUCASUS," JAN. 76; "NORTH," JUN 76;
UNNAMED, MAR 77; "CARPATHIA," JUL 77; "BEREZINA,"
FEB 78 AND THE UNNAMED GDSG EXERCISE, JUL 78. AS
REPORTED IN REFTEL, THE SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTRY, WHEN
PROVIDING THIS NOTIFICATION TO MILITARY ATTACHES IN
MOSCOW, ANNOUNCED THAT NO OBSERVERS WOULD BE INVITED.

4. FOR USNATO: PLEASE PROVIDE ALLIES TRANSLATION OF NOTE
AND INFORM US WHETHER ANY HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EXERCISE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
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RECEIVING ALLIED REACTIONS.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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